

Message Text

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4459

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

ALL NATO CAPITALS

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

USNMR SHAPE BE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 06020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: RESOURCES ASPECTS

REF: (A) USNATO 1109 (DTG 021045Z MAR 77) (NOTAL),

(B) STATE 144600 (DTG 212339Z JUN 77) (NOTAL)

1. IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION WITH DEFAD JUNE 23, ASYG MUMFORD REMARKED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REAL INCREASES IN DEFENSE SPENDING, IN ADDITION TO GREATLY INCREASED ALLIANCE COOPERATION, IN ORDER TO BRING THE NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM TO A FULL AND SUBSTANTIVE RESULT. NOTING THAT CONGRESS HAS MADE "SEVERAL CUTS" IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR FY 1978, AND DESCRIBING THE US AS "TAKING SO MUCH CREDIT" FOR REAL DEFENSE SPENDING INCREASES IN FY-77, MUMFORD CAUTIONED THAT FURTHER EROSION IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S FY '78 PLANS MIGHT REDUCE US CRED-
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IBILITY WITH THE ALLIES IN MAKING THE GOALS OF THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM STICK.

2. DRAWING ON VERBATIM EXTRACTS FROM SECRETARY BROWN'S COMMENTS DURING THE RECENT DPC MINISTERIAL RESTRICTED SESSION, DEFAD EMPHASIZED OUR BELIEF THAT BOTH REAL RESOURCE INCREASES AND GREATLY INCREASED COOPERATION ARE PREREQUIS-

ITES OF A SUCCESSFUL NATO DEFENSE POSTURE IN THE LONG TERM. HE ADDED THAT CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY-78 BY BUDGET, AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES WERE BOUND TO OCCUR, BUT THAT AS FAR AS WE COULD SEE, ACTION THUS FAR ON FY '78 OUTLAYS (WHICH IS THE BASIS OF NATO DEFENSE EXPENDITURE DEFINITION) THOUGH OF SOME CONSEQUENCE, DID NOT APPEAR TOO SERIOUS.

3. COMMENT: IN FOCUSING ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE FY '78 BUDGET RATHER THAN ON THE EMERGING ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS FOR FY '79 AND BEYOND, MUMFORD OF COURSE WAS OFF THE MARK. HIS CONCERN, HOWEVER, UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NATO INITIATIVES OF THE US FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH REAL INCREASES OF AT LEAST 3 PCT ANNUALLY FOR THE COMING NATO FORCE PLANNING PERIOD. END COMMENT. STREATOR

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